

**Town of La Pointe**  
**Special Town Board Meeting**  
**2017 Budget Workshop**  
**Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016**  
**5:30 pm at the Town Hall**  
Approved Minutes

**Town Board Members Present:** Jim Patterson, Mike Anderson, Sue Brenna, John Carlson, Mike Starck

**Staff present:** Lisa Potswald, Barb Nelson, William Defoe, Cindy Dalzell, Sarah Schram, Rick Reichkitzer, Tim Eldred, Elected Clerk Micaela Montagne

**1. Call to order:** at 5:30pm

**2. Budget Workshop with each of the following departments**

A. Law Enforcement: Police Chief William Defoe present to go over budget. Discussion included some staffing changes coming up because of a retirement as well as difficulty in finding qualified officers. There are not as many new graduates entering law enforcement, and the Town has typically hired part time officers that are new to the system. The Town Board would like W. Defoe to see what a schedule and the budget would look like if he were to hire full time officers instead of having more part time officers to compare.

The bike patrol in 2016 was a success and there are plans to continue and expand it in the coming years. The department has already purchased two bikes and equipment from donations received in 2016. A small budget will go towards this each year.

The Town mechanic, Adam Hage has saved money for the department, as well as many other departments, by fixing and maintaining equipment and vehicles. There are new line items in each department's budget that reflect Town Labor so that Adam's time working for departments other than Roads is coded correctly.

Budgeted expenses for 2017, 2018, and 2019 could be reduced for unemployment, legal fees, and bike patrol as there is also a designated fund for the bike patrol. The 2017 budget expenditures are up from 2016 about 8% and go down slightly for 2018 and 2019.

Discussion on increasing parking ticket fees that would bring in more revenue. The fee is currently \$10, and may go up to \$20 which is comparable to surrounding areas. There would need to be an ordinance amendment to do so.

B. Ambulance: Ambulance Director Cindy Dalzell and Assistant Director Sarah Schram present to go over budget. Goals for the department include increasing the number of EMTs (currently 8-9, and would like 12), and replacing the van style ambulance with a new or better ambulance, as the current one is not reliable. The new ambulance, budgeted for in 2017, would be paid in part by the department's designated funds as well as fundraising, grants, taxpayer money, and possibly borrowing. The old van style ambulance would also be sold for revenue. It was also discussed that it would be beneficial to the local community as well as tourists to have articles in the Gazette that go over what services are available and what is not available.

The new office space in the Winter Transportation Building is working out well, the Length of Service program will continue, currently there is just a flat fee for an ambulance call that is a transport, and there is no charge if it is a non-transport.

Discussion on the issue of wages; it is difficult to budget because they are based on the number of EMTs as well as the number of calls/ transports which is difficult to predict. Compensation for volunteers is also an issue as they cannot be paid more than 20% of what a full time EMT would be paid.

The 2017 requested budget expenditures are down from the requested 2016 request, but higher than what was actually spent in 2016. 2018 and 2019 expenditures go up slightly due to the hope of increased EMTs.

C. Fire Department: Chief Rick Reichkitzer and Tim Eldred present to go over budget figures. The department goals for the next few years include a new fire truck, more training, maintaining a 25 to 28 member department, and getting a dry hydrant towards the north end of the Island. The fire number sign project in Zoning is also a priority as well looking into a driveway ordinance to ensure that the department can get to structures in emergencies.

A new fire truck is in the 2017 budget request. The truck would be a pick up style with a slide in unit that could pull the pump, as well as have a pump/ tank and wildfire gear. The cost of the new truck could be as much as \$105,000, but depending on what used vehicles are available, could be only \$65,000. Funding would come from a designated fund as well as other sources depending on the cost.

The department received a rescue boat a couple of years ago that did not work out, it will be sold in 2017 for a small amount, and a new one may be donated to the department by the original donor.

There may also be a purchase in 2017 for new 'jaws of life' equipment for \$40,000, which is hoped to be funded by donations.

The overall 2017 budget expenditures are down from what was requested in 2016, but higher than what was actually spent in 2016. 2018 and 2019 requests are comparable to what was spent in 2016 as well.

**3. Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn, S. Brenna/ M. Starck, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried. Adjourned at 7:46pm.

Submitted by Micaela Montagne, Town Clerk

Approved as submitted, October 25, 2016. M. Montagne, Town Clerk.